

# Tonganoxie Community Historical Society

TCHS

January 15, 2008

## TCHS Welcomes 2008

As we begin the New Year at the Historical Society, we again want to express our thanks for your valuable support during the past year. Your support through yearly membership dues, donations, and volunteering is the foundation of our historical society.

While the last few months have severely limited outside activities, many changes have been taking place inside. New display areas are completed in the barn area, and a rearrangement of areas and artifacts in the Museum is under way. And although our Museum is closed to visitors over the winter, work continues all around the Site.

As our opening day in April fast approaches, labor behind the scenes continues in order to ensure the buildings and grounds are in tip-top shape, artifacts and valuable displays are well-presented, and volunteers will be on-hand to greet visitors as they begin to arrive. We want them to know that old buildings and artifacts aren't all they will find here, but they are well worth the trip. When they visit our historical Site and the Tonganoxie area, they will realize that it's not just small-town hospitality they are witnessing, but also a place to visit for history and education.

With the start of this New Year, one constant that the future always holds for everyone is change. We see changes in our expectations, our resources, our needs. However, one thing that remains unchanged at TCHS is our dedication to preserving our local history.

If you have an item (artifact, document, genealogy record, etc.) that pertains to the history of our area that you would like to donate to our Museum, please contact us. If you would be interested in volunteering a portion of your time to further our efforts, please contact us. If you are not currently a member and would like to join us in our efforts of preservation and educating the public, please contact us for further information.

Opening Day is just around the corner, with another season of activity around the Site. We have some very interesting programs scheduled for our monthly meetings, so mark your calendars and plan to attend. Also, make plans to stop in to see the changes and new additions. And bring a guest!!

Happy New Year to all of you.



Howard Fields and Wayne Davidson move Museum items to new shelf areas in the barn.

## TCHS Board News

- by George Cooper, Chairman

Our Board of Directors wish all of our members health and happiness through 2008 and beyond. With those two elements of life in our grasp, all things are possible. I always look forward to the December solstice because it means the days begin to get longer (more light) and we can look forward to Spring.

The winter months slow down some activity at our Historic Site, but there is always something to do. Work on the Fire Engine progresses, changes and additions in the Museum continue, and there are always inside jobs for the Wednesday work crew. Normally open from 9am to 12 Noon, you can expect to see between 9 and 12 volunteers around the Site. On Board meeting day (usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month), there may be more as all members are welcome to attend the meetings.

Any of the work days will have a “coffee break” around 10:00, which lasts about 30 minutes - or longer if discussion dictates. This is an excellent time for problem solving, and to enjoy friends.

Our buildings are used throughout the year for various purposes, including church services, weddings, parties, and other celebrations. The fees charged for use of the buildings help to fund maintenance, cleaning and other operating expenses.

In our informal structure, we have capable volunteers who keep the essential work of the organization going on a daily basis. From time to time, a one-time event occurs which requires someone to take charge for a period of time. One such event is the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in downtown Tonganoxie. In the past, we have won awards with our “float” entry, but last year due to lack of a take charge person, we did not have an entry in the parade. If you would like to organize a TCHS entry in this year’s parade, or if you have ideas for a “parade moment” and would like information about our resources for this

event, call me (913-845-3388) or Susy Ross (913-845-2477).

This New Year will bring changes in planning and communications at TCHS. We hope these changes will further exhibit our Historic Site as a significant asset to our community.

## Honey Valley School News

On January 29, the McLouth Third Grade will join us at the Site to learn about Kansas’ 147<sup>th</sup> birthday and other Kansas history. They will experience attending school in the late 1800s and early 1900s in a one room school, enjoy eating Johnny Cakes hot off the griddle, tour the Museum, then have lunch and birthday cake.

This event is made possible through the efforts of our school coordinator Helene Miller and her group of faithful volunteers. Helene says that she can’t possibly name *all* the volunteers who assist in the project, but “they know who they are; and I very much appreciate them!”

Some of the assistance Helene receives comes from people or businesses who are not members of TCHS yet wish to be involved in such a worthwhile project. Among those are Edith Mongold, who donated enough hankies for hankie dolls this year *and also next year!* Also, Midwest Carpet has provided dozens of carpet pads for the children to sit on in the barn. Helene states, “It seems that all I have to do is ask! What a wonderful community we live in!”

We are fortunate to have Helene and her group of volunteers to provide this valuable experience for our area school children. And this from Helene: “It is a pleasure to work as TCHS School Coordinator and I still love being with the children and hopefully teaching them of our past. Thank you Volunteers, and TCHS Board and Officers for your support.”

If you would like to help or have items to donate to this project, contact Helene at the Museum.

NOTE: I might mention here that in the December Newsletter, I mistakenly referred to Honey Valley School as “Reno School House.” This was obviously an oversight, as we all *know* it is “Honey Valley School.”

## Membership Report

With the beginning of a new calendar year, we also begin our annual Membership drive. Application cards and envelopes were mailed with the December Newsletter, so if you did not receive one, please let us know. (If you are a Life Member, you did not receive this card.)

If you have already submitted your dues for 2008, we offer our sincere thanks for your continued support. If your membership has expired and you wish to renew, or if you wish to join us as a new member, we would appreciate hearing from you. A yearly membership or a Life Membership would be a wonderful gift for a loved one or a special friend. Additionally, if you would like to make a tax-deductible donation or a memorial donation, you may use the card and envelope that you received. Please indicate the purpose of your donation on the reverse side of the card.

We hope you will plan to join us for monthly meetings and the social time which follows each meeting. We meet at the Site at 7:00pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month (except June and December). Come out and enjoy the informative programs, and bring a friend along.

*“What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.”*

- Unknown

## In the museum . . .



Sidesaddle, c. 1880s. Donated to TCHS by Virginia Murphy. (2003.121A)

This ladies sidesaddle was used by Pearl Bell, a teacher at Star School in the 1880s. Ms. Bell lived about two miles from the school and rode her horse to school each day. On a sidesaddle, the rider sits with both legs on the same side of the animal; it was designed for women wearing skirts while riding.

## Annual Chili and Soup Dinner

One of our major fund-raising events takes place on Thursday, January 17, only a couple of days from now. Held at the United Methodist Church, 328 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Tonganoxie, it is an “*All You Can Eat*” meal, including chili, soup, dessert and drinks. The hours are 11:00am - 7:00pm. Cost: Adults \$6.00; Children 5-12 \$3.00; and kids under 5 eat for free.

This Historical Society fund-raiser is chaired by Connie Putthoff. Come on down and bring the family and neighbors. Pay at the door or call Connie (913-845-2905) for tickets.

## How to Reach Us:

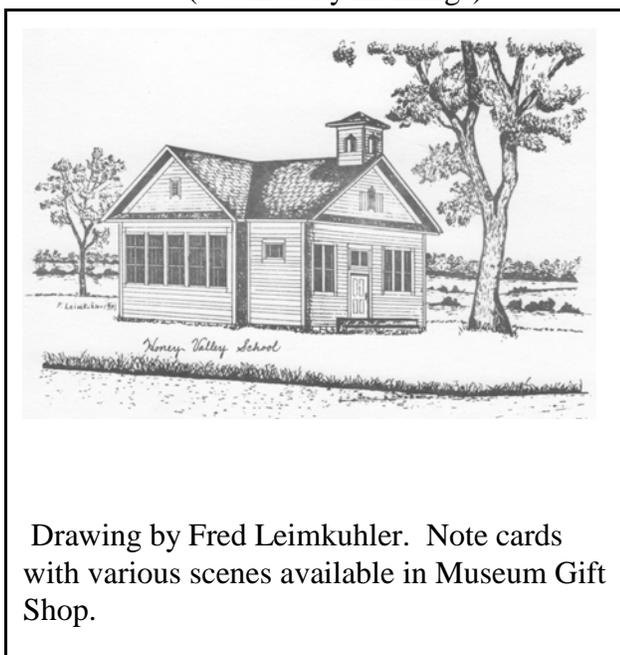
The website for TCHS is currently under construction, and we are hoping to have more to report on this in the next Newsletter. In the near future, you will be able to access our Newsletter on the internet, and also learn about Museum hours and information, important announcements, upcoming speakers and activities, and many, many other interesting things about TCHS. In the meantime, you may contact us:

Mail: Newsletter @ TCHS  
Linda DiSanto, Editor  
P. O. Box 785  
Tonganoxie, KS 66086-0785

Phone: 913-845-2960 (Wed AM, or leave a message)

Email: [disanto@wildblue.net](mailto:disanto@wildblue.net) (please mention TCHS in the subject area so your message will not be automatically deleted)

In Person: 201 W. Washington St.  
(Wednesday mornings)



## Coming Attractions

We appreciate the following speakers who have volunteered their time and talent to inform, educate, and entertain us. Please mark your calendars for these events, and bring a friend with you for a great evening of entertainment.

**January 22** - Trail guide Ross Marshall, past National President of the Oregon-California Trails Association and of the Santa Fe Trail Association, and current president of the Partnership for the National Trails System joins us for the evening. Partnership for the National Trails System is a non-profit corporation organized to further the protection, completion, and stewardship of our national trails, and to promote the appropriate use of our trails for the education and use by all.



**February 26** - Stan Herd, author and Environmental Artist, known world-wide for his crop art, is our guest this evening. Crop art is an art form that involves the manipulation of plants, soil and rock to transform natural landscapes into art on such a grand scale that it must be viewed from an airplane. Herd has been featured in many major publications, and has been featured on numerous TV shows. He has created earthwork projects all around the world, and his work has become a platform for mankind's relationship to the land. His studio is located in Lawrence, Kansas.

**March 25** - To be announced.